REMARKS

Applicant is filing a Request For Continued Examination under 37 C.F.R. § 1.114 to have the present Amendment entered.

Reconsideration of this application as amended and in light of the following remarks is respectfully requested.

Status of the Claims

Claims 1, 4, 7, 12, 13, 14, and 15 have been amended. Claims 2 and 3 have been cancelled without prejudice. Claim 20 has been added.

Claims 1 and 4-20 are pending in the application.

The amendments to claims 1, 4, 7, 12, 13, 14, and 15 and new claim 20 do not add new matter.

Rejection Under 35 U.S.C. §102(e)

Claims 1-19 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,020,884 to MacNaughton, et al. (hereinafter "MacNaughton"). The Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection by stating that MacNaughton does not disclose or teach all the claimed elements of the present invention.

With regards to the rejection of claims 1, 12 and 13 Applicants respectfully disagree with the Examiner's assessment of MacNaughton and state that the MacNaughton reference does not disclose semi-public chat sessions nor does the reference disclose that these semi-public chat sessions are visible only to users having a predetermined user profile. The Examiner particularly

points to the Threaded Message Server and the Tracking Server of MacNaughton as teaching or suggesting the Applicants' invention of real-time, semi-public chat sessions.

MacNaughton discloses that the Threaded Message Server stores and organizes user interactions posted to a message board associated with a specific URL, for later retrieval by another user. The communication from the Threaded Message Server is not available in real-time. Instead it is later made visible to any user providing the same URL regardless of that user's profile (MacNaughton col. 9, l. 25-40). In contrast, the present invention allows real-time communication between users via semi-public chat sessions.

In MacNaughton, the Tracking Server maintains a list of current users that can be interrogated on behalf of a user, and through this means users are able to learn of other users with similar interests (MacNaughton, e.g., col 18, ll. 62-66 and col 9, ll. 44-49). However, Applicants respectfully submit to the Examiner that the Applicants' invention of a communication only being visible to users with a predetermined profile is not disclosed nor suggested by MacNaughton.

MacNaughton discloses that the Tracking Server tracks all chat sessions currently in progress and that this information is sent to a user as they enter the URL. There is no suggestion to limit a new entrant's access to the information regarding ongoing chat sessions based on that user's profile. Further, all MacNaughton discloses is the concept of real-time private or public chat sessions. There is no disclosure of real-time semi-public chat sessions, visible to users with a predetermined profile, in MacNaughton. The Applicants respectfully state that MacNaughton does not anticipate the presently claimed invention.

Accordingly claims 1, 12, and 13 have been amended to more clearly claim the Applicants' invention. The amendments are supported by the specification, e.g., page 23 lines 16-20, and no new matter is added. Claims 4-6 depend from claim 1.

Applicants respectfully submit that claim 7 is not anticipated by MacNaughton. The invention of claim 7 is a method to provide usage information of a web site to a user. Elements of this invention include providing a user the ability to designate any web site as the homepage to be monitored and the ability to transmit the monitored information to the user.

In contrast to the claimed invention, MacNaughton discloses only fixed Community Home Pages that are predetermined and associated with particular web sites. MacNaughton's Home Pages cannot be designated by the user. A further limitation of the reference solved by the Applicants' invention is that MacNaughton requires a user to leave the present community and enter a different community to change a Home Page. Additionally, MacNaughton does not disclose transmitting information regarding activity on the Home Page to users while they are visiting other web sites, instead this information is sent to users who have just entered the community. Thus, each and every element of the Applicants' invention is not disclosed in MacNaughton.

Claims 7, 14, and 15 have been amended to more particularly claim the Applicants' invention. The amendments are supported by the specification and there is no new matter. Claims 8, 9, 10, and 11 depend from independent claim 7.

Independent claim 16 and claim 17, which depends from claim 16, have been rejected. The Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection. The Applicants' invention is a method that facilitates communication between users visiting the same web site of a communication network. The invention of the present application gives a user an indication that another user is

visiting the same web site. In contrast, MacNaughton requires that a user initiate an interrogation of the Tracking Server to learn the identity of other users visiting the same web site. Claim 18 is for a computer readable medium encoded with the method of claim 17 and claim 19 is for an apparatus to implement the method of claim 17. The Applicants submit that claims 16-19 are patentable over MacNaughton.

New claim 20 has been added to the application. Claim 20 depends from claim 7 and more particularly states the content and nature of the usage information being monitored. This information is disclosed in the specification, e.g., on page 11, line 17 through page 12, line 13 and no new matter is added. For the reasons just stated and those presented above for claim 7, the Applicants' request that the Examiner allow this claim.

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CONCLUSION

Each and every point raised in the Office Action dated April 5, 2002 has been addressed on the basis of the above amendments and remarks. In view of the foregoing, it is believed that claims 1 and 4-20 are in condition for allowance and it is respectfully requested that the application be reconsidered and that all pending claims be allowed and the case passed to issue.

If there are any other issues remaining which the Examiner believes could be resolved through a Supplemental Response or an Examiner's Amendment, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number indicated below.

Respectfully submitted,

Dated: October 7, 2002

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Docket No: 2559/1F420-US1

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of: Moshe ZILBERSTEIN et al.

Serial No.: 09/422,387 Art Unit: 2155

Confirmation No.: 5469

Filed: October 21, 1999 Examiner: Khanh Q. Dinh

For: SYSTEM AND METHOD FOR PROCESSING AND PRESENTING INTERNET USAGE INFORMATION TO FACILITATE USER COMMUNICATIONS

October 7, 2002

Assistant Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

MARK-UP FOR AMENDMENT OF OCTOBER 7, 2002
PURSUANT TO 37 C.F.R. § 1.121

IN THE CLAIMS:

1. (Amended) A method for facilitating a real-time chat session between a first user and a second user, both visiting a first web server, the method comprising:

receiving, from the first user, a first user ID corresponding to the first user and an address of the first web server;

receiving, from the second user, a second user ID corresponding to the second user and the address of the first web server;

providing, to the first user, at least an indication of the second user ID;

receiving, from the first user, a request to open [one of a public chat session,] a semi-public chat session [and a private chat session] with the second user;

transmitting, to the second user, an indication that the first user has requested [one of the public chat session,] the semi-public chat session [and the private chat session]; and

receiving, from the second user, an acceptance to enter the semi-public chat session designated by the first user.

4. (Amended) The method of claim 1, wherein the [chat session is a] semi-public chat session [and wherein the chat session] is visible only to users having a predetermined user profile.

7. (Amended) A method for providing usage information of a first web site designated by a user, the method comprising:

receiving, from the user, a designation of the first web site as a homepage, wherein the homepage is any web site on a communication network;

monitoring usage of the homepage by a plurality of users; and

transmitting data representative of the usage to the user when the user is connected to a communication network[visiting a second web page].

12. (Amended) A computer-readable medium encoded with processing instructions for implementing a method for facilitating a chat session between a first user and second user, both visiting a first web server, the method comprising:

receiving, from the first user, a first user ID corresponding to the first user and an address of the first web server;

receiving, from the second user, a second user ID corresponding to the second user and the address of the first web server;

providing, to the first user, at least an indication of the second user ID;

receiving, from the first user, a request to open [one of a public chat session,] a semi-public chat session [and a private chat session] with the second user;

transmitting, to the second user, an indication that the first user has requested [one of the public chat session,] the semi-public chat session [and the private chat session]; and

receiving, from the second user, an acceptance to enter the semi-public chat session designated by the first user.

13. (Amended) An apparatus for facilitating a semi-public chat session between a first user and second user, both visiting a first web server, comprising:

a processor; and

a memory storing processing instructions for controlling the processor, the processor operative with the processing instructions to:

receive, from the first user, a first user ID corresponding to the first user and an address of the first web server;

receive, from the second user, a second user ID corresponding to the second user and the address of the first web server;

provide, to the first user, at least an indication of the second user ID;

receive, from the first user, a request to open [one of a public chat session,] a semi-public chat session [and a private chat session] with the second user;

transmit, to the second user, an indication that the first user has requested [one of the public chat session,] the semi-public chat session [and a private chat session]; and

receive, from the second user, an acceptance to enter the semi-public chat session designated by the first user.

14. (Amended) A computer-readable medium encoded with processing instructions for implementing a method for providing usage information of a first web site designated by a user, the method comprising:

receiving, from the user, a designation of the first web page as a homepage wherein the homepage is any web site on a communication network;

monitoring usage of the homepage by a plurality of users; and

transmitting data representative of the usage to the user when the user is connected to the communication network [visiting a second web page].

15. (Amended) An apparatus for providing usage information of a first web site designated by a user, comprising:

a processor; and

a memory storing processing instructions for controlling the processor, the processor operative with the processing instructions to:

receive, from the user, a designation of the first web page as a homepage wherein the homepage is any web site on a communication network;

monitor usage of the homepage by a plurality of users; and

transmit data representative of the usage to the user when the user is connected to the communication network [visiting a second web page] .

Respectfully submitted,

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